

ALL WALES PRESCRIBING ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13th OCTOBER 2004 AT 9.30 AM At the Quality Hotel, Tongwynlais, Cardiff, CF14 7LD

Members

Dr Thomas Lau (Chairman)
Mrs Nicola John (Vice Chair)
Dr Jeremy Black
Dr Mark Daniels
Dr Charlie Danino
Mr William Duffield
Mr Stuart Evans
Mr Paul Gimson
Dr Tessa Lewis
Mr Ken Nazareth
Miss Tracy Parry
Mrs Delyth Simons
Mr John Terry
Mrs Judith Vincent

In attendance

Mrs Karen Morgan (Welsh Assembly Government)
Mrs Carole Stevenson (Welsh Assembly Government)
Mrs Ruth Lang (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Professor Philip Routledge (Welsh Medicines Partnership)
Mrs Karen Samuels (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

Action

1 *Welcome*

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting of the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG) and welcomes Mrs Karen Morgan and Mrs Carole Stevenson from Welsh Assembly Government.

2 *Apologies*

Dr Robert Bracchi
Dr Martin Duerden
Dr Stephen Griffiths
Miss Tracy Parry
Dr Gillian Todd
Miss Carwen Wynne-Howells (Welsh Assembly Government)
Mr Jamie Hayes (Welsh Medicines Partnership)

3 *Declarations of interest*

Members were reminded to declare any interests pertinent to the agenda. There were none.

4 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 24th July 2004 were checked for accuracy and content. No changes were made.

5 Matters arising

Mr Bill Duffield had enquired whether, in light of new evidence, AWPAG could review and update, at an all-Wales level, the advice issued by NICE on Cox IIs and make a recommendation to AWMSG to issue interim advice prior to the NICE review. Professor Routledge confirmed he had raised this issue at the AWMSG Steering Committee and would raise the issue with NICE next week.

PAR

6 Antiplatelet & Statin Guidance documents

Mr Stuart Evans informed the group that the revised document templates (Enclosures 2 and 3) had been sent to the Cardiac Network for final comment. All comments received following the previous AWPAG meeting had been considered by WMP in the interim period and, where appropriate, had been incorporated into the documents. It was agreed that both guidance documents should be for local adaptation based on the 'templates'. Mr Evans confirmed that NICE were expected to release their antiplatelet guidance at the end of November. The group discussed the content of the documents and agreed to provide further comments after the meeting. It was confirmed that the final draft of the guidance documents required the endorsement of AWMSG at their meeting on 1st December 2004. WMP agreed to address the issue of editing and production of a "house-style". The group agreed to recommend to AWMSG that the guidance templates be disseminated to the service via local M&TCs with an accompanying letter from the Chairs of both AWPAG and AWMSG reiterating that the documents are evolutionary and would require future review.

SE/
WMP

7 National Prescribing Incentive Scheme - update

Dr Jeremy Black presented an overview of Enclosure 4. The group discussed the structure of the scheme and agreed that it should form part of a process that would modify prescribing behaviour to promote cost effectiveness and evidence-based prescribing. The issue of 'underspends' was raised, and it was agreed that clarification should be sought LHB Finance Directors meeting with regard to appropriate terms and conditions. There was detailed discussion on the structure of the scheme and the remuneration element was changed from £250 to £500 per 1000 patients. It was confirmed that Mr Julian Baker, AWMSG Finance Director representative, had agreed to take the document to the next meeting of LHB Finance Directors in November. The group expressed their grave concern over the lack of a robust national budget setting formula and agreed that this concern should be reflected in the document. Members agreed to recommend to AWMSG that the scheme should be optional until such a formula was in place. WMP agreed to make the necessary changes to the draft document following the meeting to take to the AWMSG December meeting.

WMP

Dr Black drew the discussion to a close and tendered his resignation from the group due to family commitments. The Chairman acknowledged the huge amount of work that had gone into the preparation of the

documentation and thanked Dr Black for his tremendous commitment to the development of the scheme.

8 *Local (Low Level) Prescribing Indicators*

Mrs Delyth Simons presented Enclosure 5. It was agreed that time constraints prevented the group from considering the list presented in the documentation. It was agreed that the most effective way forward would be for the regional groups to consider the list and feed back information to WMP. It was also agreed that Mrs Simons would approach Health Solutions Wales and ask how many indicators could be included and that members would forward any comments to WMP.

DS

9 *Appointments & constitutional issues*

Mrs Carole Stevenson of Welsh Assembly Government presented Enclosure 6. It was agreed that clarification was sought that where members had been nominated by a regional organization/group a two way communication between the regional groups and AWPAG should be established, so that the professional organization/groups had input into and ownership of the work programme. Where an individual nomination had been made, the member would provide an individual perspective and would be expected to undertake responsibility for progressing the work programme on an individual basis offering a personal perspective. The group acknowledged the need for a balance between pharmacist and medical input around the table and also GP and medical director input. The group expressed frustration at the lack of medical director input to date.

A table detailing the current AWPAG membership position was tabled and discussed. Ruth Lang drew members' attention to the minutes of the AWMSG September 2004 meeting where it was stated that "the Chairman had confirmed that the appointment of Dr Mark Daniels as co-opted member of AWPAG had been ratified by Welsh Assembly Government" and stated that at a previous meeting Mrs Sian James, Welsh Assembly Government representative had confirmed that the Minister had agreed that the AWMSG Steering Committee had been granted the power to amend the constitution of the sub-groups. Mrs Stevenson informed the group that Welsh Assembly no longer felt they should be managing nominations and appointments of the sub-groups and that this responsibility should be passed to AWMSG/WMP. WMP members confirmed that undertaking this responsibility would require additional resources and would be discussed with Welsh Assembly Government outside of this meeting.

**WAG/
WMP**

10 *AWMSG Meeting – Matters relating to AWPAG*

10.1 *Changes to the current AWMSG appraisal process*

Mrs Karen Samuels presented enclosure 7, a document that had formed part of the meeting documentation for the AWMSG September meeting. The paper set out changes to the current AWMSG appraisal process and Mrs Samuels asked that members to note its content.

10.2 *T&F Groups on shared care, sip feeds and prescribing publications*

Shared Care Protocols:

Mrs Samuels reported that at its September 2004 meeting AWMSG had asked that a task and finish group (T&FG) be formed to consider what products would be suitable for shared care across Wales and requested WMP to seek volunteers and draw on expertise within AWPAG. Mrs Samuels confirmed that WMP were in the process of collating exemplars to post on the AWMSG website, but that the T&FG would be asked to clarify the issue of shared care and give direction to AWMSG bearing in mind the GMS contract. Members suggested that the T&FG should include the interface pharmacists within Wales and Local Medical Committee members. There were no volunteers around the table. WMP agreed to report back to the AWMSG Chairman.

WMP

Sip feeds:

Mrs Samuels reported that at the AWMSG meeting in September 2004 WMP had been tasked with setting up a task and finish group (T&FG) involving volunteers from AWPAG and other interested bodies (eg dieticians, nursing home managers etc) to consider the issue of sip feeds. AWMSG had accepted that the process for product selection and supply should be at least comparable to that for pharmaceuticals. The issues of management of repeat prescribing systems, use of loss leaders and primary/secondary care interface needed to be addressed. WMP reported that the AWMSG Chairman had tasked NHSIF to consider the process in the first instance, and that AWPAG would contribute and develop the paper originated by NHSIF for submission to AWMSG at a future date. There was general feeling that although this area of work required development, it was not part of the original AWPAG work programme and members were concerned over the lack of time and resources that would be necessary to undertake this project. Members asked that WMP raise the issue of contracting work with the AWMSG Steering Committee.

WMP

Prescribing publications:

Mrs Samuels reported that at its September 2004 meeting AWMSG had discussed the need for a centrally co-ordinated approach to ensure the evaluation, purchase and distribution of prescribing publications within Wales. WMP had been tasked with providing advice on which publications should be distributed, the bodies that should receive them and the format in which they should be received. It was reported that a group had already been formed within NPHS Wales to address these issues, a WMP members has been invited to join this group..

10.3 1st Annual Report of the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group

The Chairman presented Enclosure 10 and confirmed that the document would be presented to AWMSG at its meeting in December 2004.

10.4 Consideration of new indicator for 2005

It was reported that AWPAG had been asked to consider the development of an indicator for 2005 addressing the four generics for which there has been a recent price reduction, i.e. lisinopril, simvastatin, doxazosin and omeprazole. It was the view of members that these drugs are presently included in the generic section of the national indicators and further detailed information is available from Health Solutions Wales.

11 *Influence & Implementation Strategies – more effectively changing practice*

Mr Bill Duffield presented enclosure 11, an updated paper on implementing guidance and influencing prescribing practice. At the AWPAG meeting held in July 2004 members had been asked to submit examples of good practice to marry with the draft discussion document. Members agreed there was a need for a strategy for issuing guidance comprising of separate components and felt that a multi-faceted approach would be most successful. Members agreed it should be worked into the AWPAG/AWMSG work strategy to raise the profile and influence prescribing practice and a suggestion was made that such a strategy could be implemented for the Antiplatelet Guidance. It was agreed that an implementation group with all-Wales representation be set up to address this issue and that Mr Stuart Evans would ask Ms Sara Thomas (deputy South West pharmacist member) if she would be willing to lead the group along with Mr John Terry, representing secondary care, and Mr Bill Duffield and/or Miss Tracy Parry. Mr Paul Gimson and Mr Ken Nazareth agreed to seek volunteers from the South East region. It is anticipated that the group would set out estimated costs for publication, dissemination etc and report back to AWPAG.

Implementation
Group

12 *Work Strategy – update*

It was reported that Mrs Nicola John and Professor Philip Routledge had developed an over-arching work strategy and framework for managing prescribing (enclosure 12). The group agreed there was a need to involve the whole of the prescribing community but that AWPAG should take the lead. Concern was expressed over the capacity of AWPAG to support the strategy and asked that the AWMSG Steering Committee consider a central resource for support and co-ordination with the provision of professional and administrative support in order that AWPAG are able to deliver in an effective and efficient manner.

13 *Organization of Prescribing Advisers Conference*

Mr Paul Gimson updated the group on the arrangements for the Medicines Management conference at Gwbert on 22nd/23rd November. Members acknowledged the hard work and effort of Mr Paul Gimson and the regional group in arranging this meeting. It was agreed that a conference committee consisting of representatives from WMP and AWPAG should be set up to organise a conference for 2005.

WMP/
AWPAG

14 *Any other business*

Proposed changes to the processing of expense claims

Mrs Ruth Lang reported that WMP would be introducing a new system for the processing of expense claims for AWMSG and sub-group members in January 2005.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12th January 2005 at the Boardroom, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, Cardiff commencing 9.30 am.